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Viewing cable 05NEWDELHI2602, CONGRESS CULTURE DEFINES SONIA GANDHI'S ROLE

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#05NEWDELHI2602**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
05NEWDELHI2602	2005-04-06 13:16	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy New Delhi

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/the-india-cables/article1574328.ece>

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

061316Z Apr 05

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 NEW DELHI 002602

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/06/2015

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [ECON](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: CONGRESS CULTURE DEFINES SONIA GANDHI'S ROLE

Classified By: DCM Robert O. Blake, Jr. for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

1.(C) Summary: Since the Congress-dominated government has been in power, there have been widespread allegations by the opposition BJP and media The Web Around Sonia

12. (C) For decades, Congress culture has had an "inner coterie" around the Gandhi family, to offer them advice and protect them from disses
13. (C) Mrs. Gandhi's three principal advisors, Ahmed Patel, Ambika Soni and Jairam Ramesh, have served the Gandhi family for many years, and
14. (C) Unlike the advisors, who tend to remain with the Gandhis over the long-term, individual politicians move in and out of Mrs. Gandhi's inner circle
Sonia and the NAC

15. (C) Although the National Advisory Council (NAC) has attracted considerable media attention, most agree that it is the least significant committee to
--monitor implementation of the CMP;
--provide inputs for GOI policy formulation; and --support GOI legislative business.

16. (C) Mrs. Gandhi's role as NAC Chairman provides her with Cabinet rank and a "secretariat" with a complement of civil servants and staff
17. (C) The NAC website provides access to papers drafted by the members, but it has not issued a policy document or played a significant role
Sonia and the UPA

18. (C) There are three components that must be placated and balanced to keep the UPA government in power: Congress, the Communist parties, and
19. (C) While many in the Congress inner circle have some affinity with the Communists and work together with them on selected issues, they view
20. (C) Mrs. Gandhi chairs the UPA Steering Committee, which is supposed to provide a forum for UPA members to work out their differences. In
21. (C) According to our contacts, Mrs. Gandhi plays a similar role in the Steering Committee meetings as she does in the NAC, sitting silent
22. (C) Our contacts tell us that few tangible results have emerged from these meetings, which are held largely for public consumption and to
Congress and the Communists

23. (C) Several interlocutors claimed that the weekly meetings with the Communists, also attended by Mrs. Gandhi, are more important than the
Comment

24. (C) As one of the world's oldest and largest political parties, Congress has evolved an elaborate culture aimed at protecting the Gandhi
MULFORD "